

2/397 Cavalry prepares for gunnery

By Capt. James R. MARTIN
2/397 Cavalry

"Gunner, coax, troops in the open!"
"Identified!"
"Driver up...FIRE!"

The Bradley Fighting Vehicle lurched forward and the deafening sound of precision machine gun fire filled the air. The enemy RPG team never knew what hit it.

"Target! Target! Cease fire! Driver back...scan."

From Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, Scouts from the 2nd Squadron, 397th Cavalry Regiment engaged and destroyed multiple enemy troop, chopper, wheel, and track targets with deadly fire from their M242 25mm chain guns and co-axially mounted machine guns. This was accomplished without a single friendly casualty or equipment loss thanks to the Ft. Knox Unit Conduct of Fire Trainer (UCOFT).

The UCOFT is an advanced computer-animated system where soldiers climb into mock Bradley Fighting Vehicle turrets and do battle with a never-ending supply of enemy forces. Donned with his combat vehicle crewman helmet, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Preston says that the sights and sounds inside these mock turrets are fairly realistic. While targets are engaged, experienced instructors monitor and critique soldiers on such things as target acquisition, exposure time, and fire commands.

While the Army continues to develop innovative ways to train personnel, C Troop's 1st Sgt. Clive Jennings points out, "The UCOFT is a safe and inexpensive way for units to perfect their skills without putting costly wear and tear on vehicles, equipment, and personnel. It is also a necessary certification requirement prior to firing live rounds from an actual Bradley Fighting Vehicle."

In preparation for an upcoming live-fire gunnery, soldiers of the 2-397 Cavalry not only trained in the sterile environment of the UCOFT, but also "got their hands dirty" as they completed the Bradley Gunnery Skills Test. The BGST measures a soldier's abilities in a number of tasks including the installation of an M240C coax machine gun, unload and clear an M242 25mm gun, bore-sight turret weapons systems, and identify combat vehicles.

Using "dummy" ammunition, qualified Cavalry instructors trained soldiers on how to properly use the equipment and deal with any malfunction contingency. This crucial training becomes second nature by the time the soldiers fire live rounds.

By drill's end, nearly 100 Scouts from 2/397 Cavalry completed the exciting, fast-paced, (and sometimes grueling) requirements necessary to send rounds down range later this winter.

7th Brigade has new commander

By Lt.Col. James DAVIDSON
7th Brigade Executive Officer

The Colors and the Command of the 7th Brigade were passed on April 6, 2003, from Col. James G. Russell to Col. Charles A Borsavage in a ceremony conducted at Fort Knox, Ky.

The outgoing commander left the brigade to assume command of the 2nd Brigade, which has its headquarters in Owensboro, Ky. The new commander comes to the division from his assignment as the S4, 1st Brigade, 85th Division, Ft Sheridan, Ill.

Borsavage was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1979 at the

University of Vermont through the Reserve Officer Training Corps and has served for more than 23 years on both active and reserve duty.

His command assignments include E Company, 1st BN, 1st Brigade, 91st Division, Modesto, Calif.; Headquarters Company, 85th Division Training Group, Aurora, Ill; Company E, (BRM), 1st Battalion 340th Regiment, Aurora, Ill.; 3/411th Logistical Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 85th Division Indianapolis and 2/338th Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 85th Division, Indianapolis.

Borsavage holds both a bachelor and master degree. He lives in Spring Hill, Tenn., and has two chil-

dren: Elizabeth, 15, and Charles, 12

The 7th Brigade consists of a Headquarters Company and three battalions.

1/399 Battalion — Augmentation of the 46th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) at Fort Knox by receiving and in-processing new soldiers and providing soldier training.

2/399 Battalion — Provides committee instruction and training support to the 1st Armored Training Brigade at Fort Knox.

3/399 Battalion — Provides administrative and logistical support to Total Army School System units in a four-state area.